

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F T O R P O I N T

T H E

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The population of No. 7 Health Area as estimated on the 30th June, 1971 was 55,190 - an increase of 1,790 over the corresponding date in 1970. Liskeard Rural District showed the largest increase of 800, and was closely followed by the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 660. In the Borough of Liskeard a sizeable increase of 350 was estimated, and there were much smaller increases at Torpoint and Looe. In the St Germans Rural District there was a fall of 120 in population.

The number of live births registered during 1971 rose sharply to 855 an increase of 86 over the previous year. This produced a corrected birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 of population - some 3.1 per 1,000 above the corresponding figure for England and Wales. Of these 855 live births 64 were illegitimate births and represented 7.5% of all live births. This was one half per cent below the national figure. With an undoubted increase in sexual promiscuity, one might reasonably apprehend an increase in births of children outside wedlock. On the other hand the gradual increase and spread of knowledge about contraception, and the readier availability of abortion may more than offset the effects of sexual permissiveness and we could well see some reduction in the number of illegitimate births. The rates for still-births and for infant mortality were below those for the country as a whole. Unfortunately one 28 year old mother died during 1971 from a haemorrhage complicating childbirth.

There were 779 deaths, an increase of 11 over the total for the previous year. This yielded a corrected rate per 1,000 of population of 11.8 which was only fractionally higher than the rate for England and Wales. As is usual heart disease was responsible for the highest number of deaths, and caused 39% of all deaths. Cancer in all its forms caused 20% of all deaths, and the most lethal single form of cancer was that affecting the lung which caused 35 deaths. Of the 779 persons who died during 1971, some 373 or 49% of the total had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

The incidence of notifiable disease was again quite light during the year. In all 109 cases were notified, and apart from 4 cases of infective jaundice which can cause permanent damage to the liver, and very occasionally has a fatal outcome, none of the more serious types of notifiable disease occurred. The one case of malaria which was notified involved a young man from Nigeria, who was undergoing training in a Naval Establishment. Of the 109 cases notified, 44 were measles, 35 whooping cough and there were 18 cases of scarlet fever.

During the year 14 new cases of tuberculosis were notified a sizeable increase over the admittedly low total of 8 new cases in 1970. Of the new cases 10 were respiratory infections, and in 4 other parts of the body were involved. In 8 of the cases males were affected and 9 out of the total of 14 infections were aged 45 years or more at the time of infection. In two instances death was attributed to tuberculosis, the persons involved being a female aged 65 years, and a male aged 71 years.

In carrying out the regular annual campaign for the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination of 12 year old schoolchildren a 12 year old girl was found to have a strongly positive tuberculin reaction. Further investigation of this child and the family contacts disclosed that she and her mother were suffering from active tuberculosis, and from the condition of the mothers lungs it appeared that her infection had been present for some time and had probably been passed from her to her daughter. Some six months later a third member of the family - a boy aged 7 was found to have X-ray evidence of early tuberculosis. During 1970 of 558 schoolchildren who had their tuberculin test read, some 527 were found to need B.C.G. vaccination and were given it.

In closing this general preface I would again offer to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve my sincere thanks for the assistance and understanding I have received from them during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P.J.FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

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TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Purposes Committee

Councillor J.J. Peach	Chairman
Councillor R.A. Grinter	Vice-Chairman

Public Health Officers of the Authority

P.J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.	..	Medical Officer of Health
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W. Hogarth, F.F.S., F.R.S.H.	Public Health Inspector.
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TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT

Area of Urban District	988 acres
Population	6,320
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,762
Rateable Value	£198,535
Product of Penny Rate	£1,946

Vital Statistics for 1971

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births	49	52	101
	<u>Torpoint U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of population	21.8	19.1	16.0
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	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still births	2	-	2

Torpoint U.D. Health Area No.7 England & Wales

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	19.0	8.1	12.0
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	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	28	28	56

Torpoint U.D. Health Area No.7 England & Wales

Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.9	11.8	11.6
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No deaths of infants under one year of age and no maternal deaths were registered during the year.

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart disease	20
Cancer (all sites)	15
Circulatory disease	8
Stroke	4
Accidents	4

An excess of births over deaths of 45 resulted in a corrected birth rate which was even higher than that of 1970. Cancer was a less prevalent cause of death than in the previous year. Of those who died during the year some 32% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

As is usual nowadays the incidence of this group of diseases was very light during 1971 when 12 cases only were notified. Of these 9 were measles and there was one case of scarlet fever, infective jaundice and malaria. The case of malaria involved a 21 year old man from Nigeria stationed at a Royal Navy training establishment and the infection was contracted in West Africa prior to his coming to the United Kingdom.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of this disease came to notice during the year. In both cases females were affected. A 12 year old girl developed an infection of a gland in her neck and a 68 year old woman had a respiratory infection.

The following are relevant case rates for this disease:-

	Rate per 1,000 of population	
	<u>Torpoint U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
New cases	0.32	0.25
All known cases	1.42	1.96

At the end of 1971 there were 7 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis residing in the Urban District.

National Assistance Act 1948

No action under section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply

An adequate supply of wholesome water was available from the East Cornwall Water Board throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work on resewering and improvements to existing treatment works commenced in September 1971 and good progress has been made in the initial stages of this large contract.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Because of continuing difficulty in finding a long term site for refuse disposal, tipping has had to be done at a site close to the town and a large secondary school. This is not a very satisfactory state of affairs but one which is not likely to be adequately dealt with in the near future.

Food

Premises in which food is handled were inspected as and when the Public Health Inspector could find time to do so. In general, reasonable standards of food hygiene were maintained. No cases of food poisoning came to notice during 1971.

Factories Act, 1961

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced.

Report of Public Health Inspector

This report by Mr. Wilson Hogarth follows. I should like to put on record my gratitude to Mr. Hogarth for the assistance I have had from him during the year.

Public Health Inspector's Report for 1971

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

During 1971 there was no difficulty with water supplies and no samples were taken on the Council's behalf, but sampling continues to be carried out by the East Cornwall Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage

The condition of the sewerage system in Torpoint remains the same. There is a continual threat of flooding due to overloading of sewers, but it is now hoped that this will soon be remedied. The Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. L.G. Mouchel & Partners, have finalised their scheme for re-sewering the whole of Torpoint and including the Borough Farm area which is to be developed by private enterprise as a housing estate.

The Council advertised for tenders and the successful firm was Messrs. A.E. Farr Ltd., of Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire., and their tender amounted to nearly half a million pounds, but in addition to the re-sewering of the whole area, it also includes provision for the enlargement and modernisation of the sewage works situated at the head of St. Johns Lake and within the Urban District.

The contractors began work in September and quite rapid progress is now being made. A good deal of work has already been done on the sewage works site and a beginning has been made with re-sewering in the town.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The disposal of refuse continues to be a source of great difficulty and a risk to public health in Torpoint because we are still tipping the town's rubbish in the public park at Thanckes, and the tip face is only a matter of about 300 feet from the senior school. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue and it is hoped that negotiations with the land owners concerned will allow the Council to re-open the tip at Effords Bridge near St. Johns, as this would be the most suitable place being remote from dwellings. We have a great deal of experience with tipping in this valley and we did so for about eight years, but the Council was eventually compelled to close it down because of the position of neighbouring authorities.

Housing

With the completion of the flats and maisonettes in Harvey/Rowe Street last year, Council housing in Torpoint has virtually come to an end, but a scheme is being prepared for 20 flats for old people together with a warden's house on a small piece of land to the west of Antony Road near to its junction with Trevel Road.

Private enterprise building in this area ceased last year because there is no more land available until the new sewerage scheme is completed and in operation. Small pockets of development are still proceeding, but these are infilling of existing estates, and several dwellings are being built by the people who intend to live in them, but considering both the work in hand by contractors and "do it yourself" housing, there are no more than about six dwellings being built at the present time.

Slum Clearance

There is no slum clearance problem in Torpoint.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Routine inspections of all offices and shops continue. Generally speaking, defects are remedied by means of a letter of intimation and it has not been necessary during this year for the Council to take any official action.

Shops and Food Premises

The following is a list of food premises in the Urban District:-

3 Supermarkets
4 Butchers
6 Grocers
2 Bakers and Confectioners
2 Cafes
4 Sweet Shops/Newsagents
2 Greengrocers
2 Fish and Chip Shops

4 Private Clubs

6 Licenced Premises

Several shops are licensed for the sale of ice-cream and five grocers are licensed purveyors of milk.

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:-

Sale of ice-cream	15
Manufacture and sale of cooked meats	1
Manufacture and sale of cooked meats and sausages	3

Three shops are registered for the sale of Cornish cream.

Food Sampling

No food sampling was done in the Urban District during 1971 because of the lack of the facilities to do so and of the necessary assistance.

In co-operation with the shopkeepers 183 lb. of cooked ham was surrendered as unfit for human consumption and disposed of, and the same happened to 44 lb. of tinned pork and 6 lb. of ox tongue.

Rodent Control

The control of rodents continues to be necessary on the town's refuse tip but otherwise there is no real infestation. There are occasional complaints from owners or occupiers of dwellings and other premises, and these are dealt with. Four of these small incidents occurred during the year under report, and with regard to sewers, test baiting shows that there are no rats in these.

Vermin

There were no complaints of verminous premises received during the year.

Public Health Inspections of the Area

I. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects under Public Health & Housing Acts 14
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 52
2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included in sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 0
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 0
3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 0
4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 5

II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 4

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 0
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) by owners 0
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners. 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 5
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) by owners 5
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners. 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 0
2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 0
3. Number of undertakings not to use unfit houses accepted. 0
4. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. 0
5. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | 0 |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement rooms having been rendered fit. | 0 |

IV. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV and Housing Act, 1957, Part IV.
Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 0 |
| 2. Number of families dwelling therein | 0 |
| 3. Number of persons dwelling therein | 0 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year. | 0 |
| (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 0 |
| 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases | 0 |
| (a) Drains tested. | 520 |
| Number of visits re drainage | 737 |
| (b) Visits re infectious diseases | 0 |
| Premises disinfected | 0 |
| (c) Inspection of Food Premises | 22 |
| (d) Inspection of shops under Shops Act | 12 |
| (e) Inspection of Factories | 2 |
| (f) Preliminary Inspection of houses for slum clearance plan. | 0 |

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the Year 1971 for the Urban District
of Torpoint in the County of Cornwall.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

1. - Inspection for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	5	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	0	0	0
Total	14	8	1	0

2. - Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (s. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s. 6)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)	1	1	0	0	0
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
Total	2	2	0	0	0

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

There are now nine outworkers in the Urban District

APPENDIX 1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1971

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Heart disease	86	83	42	20	38	33	302
Cancer(all sites)	44	37	30	15	14	16	156
Stroke	31	26	14	4	29	7	111
Respiratory disease	22	18	15	3	5	10	73
Circulatory disease	7	4	8	8	3	3	33
Accidents	7	3	2	4	2	2	20
Digestive disease	5	3	2	-	1	-	11
Genito-urinary disease	3	2	3	-	1	1	10

APPENDIX 2

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1971

TYPE OF DISEASE	St. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.E.	HEALTH AREA No. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	64	65	37	15	35	24	240
Hypertensive disease	6	9	1	-	1	1	18
Rheumatic heart disease	-	2	1	1	1	1	6
Other heart disease	16	7	3	4	1	7	38
Cancer of Lung / Bronchus	7	9	10	4	3	2	35
Cancer of Intestine	6	7	6	1	1	3	24
Cancer of stomach	3	3	4	3	1	3	17
Cancer of breast	4	4	2	-	1	1	12
Cancer of uterus	3	1	-	1	2	-	7
Leukaemia	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Other cancers	18	13	8	5	6	5	55

APPENDIX 3

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST.GERMANS R.D.	3	3	7	43	60	107	223
LISKEARD.R.D.	5	3	8	39	53	88	196
SALTASH M.B.	4	-	3	27	41	54	129
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	6	14	18	18	56
LISKEARD M.B.	1	-	1	11	26	61	100
LOOE U.D.	-	-	3	13	14	45	75
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	13	6	28	147	212	373	779

APPENDIX 4TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 - 1971

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 YEARS	-	-	-
5 - 14 YEARS	1	2	3
15 - 24 YEARS	-	-	-
25 - 44 YEARS	1	1	2
45 - 64 YEARS	5	-	5
65 YEARS AND OVER	1	3	4
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New Case rate per 1,000 of population	0.145	0.109	0.254

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1971

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMANS R.D.	0.19	1.39	0.07
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.65	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.10	2.11	0.10
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.42	-
LISKEARD M.B.	0.95	4.19	-
LOOE U.D.	0.49	2.72	-
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.25	1.96	0.04
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.16	2.20	0.04

APPENDIX 5

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
25 - 34 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	2	3
55 - 64 years	7	1	8
65 - 74 years	12	2	14
75 and over	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>29</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>35</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 of POPULATION - 1971

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.525	0.109	0.634
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.395	0.114	0.509
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.516	0.114	0.630

